



SAFETY Network

April 2013

www.michigan.gov/ohsp

Kelsey's Law requires new teen drivers to put their phones in park

Teen drivers with Level 1 or Level 2 licenses under the Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) program are prohibited from using a cell phone while driving as of March 28. Known as Kelsey's Law, the restriction was named in honor of Kelsey Raffaele, 17, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, who was tragically killed in a cell phone-related crash in 2010.

The *Put Your Phone in Park* public information campaign will include billboards, posters, and brochures to encourage compliance. Many groups are assisting with promoting the law to ensure parents and teen drivers are aware of the new, potentially life-saving driving restriction. The campaign is supported through federal traffic safety funds from the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning.

Violations of Kelsey's Law will be a civil infraction with fines up to \$100 as well as possible additional costs up to \$100. There are no points associated with this civil

infraction and it does not impact status in the GDL program. Exemptions to the law include emergency situations and vehicle integrated systems.

In 2011 in Michigan, 52 people were killed and 452 were seriously injured in crashes involving drivers ages 17 and younger. Of those fatalities, 16 were a 14-17-year-old driver.

Level 1 and Level 2 license holders are between 14 years, 9 months old and 17 years old.

The Michigan Legislature approved Kelsey's Law at the end of the 2012 legislative session. The legislation was sponsored by Sen. Howard Walker (R-Traverse City) and supported through the efforts of Kelsey's mother, Bonnie.

Materials will be mailed to high schools and driver training programs. To request copies of the poster and brochure, e-mail trafficsafety@michigan.gov or call (517) 636-4256.



Motorists should count on a sober driver, not luck, to get home safely

Michigan State Spartans Men's Basketball Coach Tom Izzo urged people who choose to drink during the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) basketball tournaments to use a designated driver when he joined law enforcement officers at a recent Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning media event.

"It's my favorite line to my players. I like dealing with preventative management over crisis management," Izzo said. "Preventative management is dealing with something before it happens."

Izzo joined law enforcement officers from East Lansing, Lansing, Meridian Township, Michigan State University, Ingham and Eaton counties, and the Michigan State Police to help encourage sober driving and warn motorists about the consequences of driving drunk. OHSP coordinated the effort which is supported by federal traffic safety funds.

The event promoted a March 13-April 8 drunk driving enforcement effort by 155 law enforcement agencies in 26 counties. This time period includes the NCAA men's and women's basketball tournaments,

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Click It or Ticket campaign starts May 20

Law enforcement agencies from 155 agencies in 26 counties will continue the spring tradition of seat belt enforcement by taking part in the Click It or Ticket campaign May 20-June 2.

Click It or Ticket is a national mobilization during which officers across the country take to the streets focusing on unbuckled motorists utilizing daytime seat belt enforcement zones and nighttime patrols.

In Michigan, the campaign will be supported by new television, radio, cable, and internet advertising, funded through federal traffic safety dollars.

Michigan law requires all drivers, front seat passengers, and passengers 15 and younger in any position in the vehicle to be buckled up.

Children must be in a car seat or booster seat until they are 8 years old or 4'9" tall, whichever comes first.

Participating counties include: Allegan, Berrien, Calhoun, Chippewa, Delta, Eaton, Genesee, Grand Traverse, Houghton, Ingham, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Livingston, Macomb, Marquette, Monroe, Muskegon, Oakland, Ogemaw, Ottawa, Saginaw, St. Clair, Van Buren, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties.

UMTRI Webinar on crash information query tool

The University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute is presenting a Webinar on how to use the Michigan Traffic Crash Facts Web site (www.michigantrafficcrashfacts.org) data query tool April 17 at 10 a.m.

The Webinar will include information on building queries, mapping results, viewing charts, and downloading datasets.

For more information or to sign up for the Webinar, visit www.michigantrafficcrashfacts.org/webinar.

Consumers Energy receives OHSP Setting the Example award

The Southwest Zone of Consumers Energy in Kalamazoo was honored in January with the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning's (OHSP) *Setting the Example* award for achieving 100 percent seat belt use rate for all employees in 2012.

Monthly seat belt observation studies were completed by the Consumers Energy Grass Roots Safety Teams and 252 employees were observed using their belts.

The *Setting the Example* award is presented by OHSP to people and organizations who go above and beyond in order to ensure safe travels behind the wheel.



Dee W. Bigelow, Consumers Energy Master A/E Mechanic, receives the Setting the Example award from Michael L. Prince, Director of the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning.

Michigan traffic crashes down, fatalities up in 2012

While Michigan traffic crashes and injuries were down in 2012, fatalities increased 5 percent over 2011 from 889 to 936, according to the Michigan Department of State Police Criminal Justice Information Center. The number of traffic crashes fell 4 percent to 273,891 from 284,049 in 2011. Injuries were down 2 percent to 70,519 from 71,796 in 2011.

Increases were noted in motorcyclist fatalities, up 18 percent over 2011, and alcohol- and drug-involved fatalities, up 3 percent to 281 and 6 percent to 135 respectively.

Despite increases in traffic fatalities and alcohol and drug involvement, teen fatalities declined 14 percent, from 99 in 2011 to 85 in 2012.

The state has experienced significant decreases in traffic crashes over the past decade, from 395,515 in 2002 to 273,891 in 2012. Similarly, alcohol- and/or drug-

involved fatalities have dropped from 463 in 2002 to 342 in 2012.

In other areas:

- >> Cell phone-involved crashes decreased 9 percent, from 821 in 2011 to 748 in 2012. Cell phone-involved fatal crashes increased from six in 2011 to eight in 2012. (Michigan cannot track crashes involving texting specifically.)
- >> Commercial motor vehicle-involved fatalities increased 10 percent, from 73 in 2011 to 80 in 2012.
- >> Motorcyclist fatalities increased 18 percent, from 109 in 2011 to 129 in 2012.
- >> Bicyclist fatalities were down 17 percent, from 24 in 2011 to 20 in 2012.
- >> Pedestrian fatalities decreased 5 percent, from 140 in 2011 to 133 in 2012.
- >> The number of crashes involving deer declined 9 percent, from 53,592 in 2011 to 48,918 in 2012.

Additional 2012 crash information will be posted to www.michigantrafficcrashfacts.org in the coming months.

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When does OWI rise to the level of murder?

By Kenneth Stecker, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor, Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan

On November 13, 2012, in Van Buren County, David Johnson was driving westbound on a county road when he attempted to pass a vehicle. He struck an eastbound vehicle, killing the vehicle's three occupants, a mother and her two children, ages 2 and 4.

At the time Johnson was driving, he was believed to be at .347 bodily alcohol content (BAC). It should be noted that he had two prior crash-related Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) convictions.

CAN A DRUNK DRIVER LIKE DAVID JOHNSON BE CHARGED WITH MURDER IN MICHIGAN?

Cases when drunk driving results in death are especially serious cases for prosecutors to try before a jury. In Michigan, the prosecutor has broad discretion to bring any charge supported by the evidence. In Michigan, OWI cases involving death generally fall into three categories:

1. OWI Causing Death
2. Manslaughter with a Motor Vehicle
3. Second Degree Murder

OWI CAUSING DEATH

To convict a defendant of OWI Causing Death, the prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that:

1. The defendant was operating a motor vehicle in violation of MCL 257.625 (1), (3), or (8);
2. The defendant voluntarily decided to drive, knowing that he or she had consumed liquor and/or a controlled substance and might be intoxicated; and
3. The defendant's operation of the motor vehicle caused the victim's death.

People v. Schaefer, 473 Mich. 418 (2005).

MANSLAUGHTER WITH A MOTOR VEHICLE

To convict a defendant of Manslaughter with a Motor Vehicle, the prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant operated the vehicle

in a grossly negligent manner and substantially caused the death of another. *People v. Lardie, 452 Mich. 231 (1996).*

SECOND DEGREE MURDER

To convict a defendant of second degree murder, the prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that there was:

1. A death;
2. Caused by an act of the defendant;
3. With malice;
4. Without justification or excuse.

People v. Goecke, 457 Mich. 442 (1998). Under Michigan law, malice is defined as the intent to kill, the intent to cause great bodily harm, or the intent to do an act in wanton and willful disregard of the likelihood that the natural tendency of such behavior is to cause death or great bodily harm.

Malice may be implied when the defendant does an act with a high probability that it will result in death and does it with a base antisocial motive and with wanton disregard for human life.

In addition to the second degree murder charge, the prosecutor also has the discretion to simultaneously charge the defendant with OWI causing death. Second degree murder and OWI causing death convictions do not violate the Double Jeopardy Clause to the 5th Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Evidence of second degree murder existed in each of the following cases where the defendants were charged with having killed victims while driving drunk.

In *People v. Gonzalez, case no.199230 (Mich. App. 1998)*, a car being driven by the defendant collided with a sport utility vehicle, killing three of its passengers. The crash occurred after the defendant led police on a chase at speeds in excess of 90 miles per hour. The defendant's blood alcohol level was .13. The trial court sentenced the defendant to three concurrent sentences of life imprisonment.

In *People v. Bell, case no. 242168 (Mich. App. 2003)*, a witness saw the defendant's car come up behind her and approach so close that she could not see its headlights in her rearview mirror. The witness moved onto the shoulder of the road, and after moving onto the shoulder of the road she saw the defendant swerve into an SUV, causing the driver of the SUV to suffer fatal injuries. The defendant's BAC was .25, which is more than three times the legal limit. The jury convicted the defendant of second degree murder and operating under the influence of liquor causing death. The trial court sentenced the defendant as a habitual third offender to 35 to 60 years imprisonment for the second degree murder conviction.

In *People v. Sadler, case no. 194443 (Mich. App. 1998)*, the defendant went to a bar, consumed three alcohol drinks, and then decided to drive home. In the course of driving home, the defendant claimed that he passed out at the wheel and his car veered from the roadway and struck a woman who was jogging along the shoulder. Defendant's BAC was 0.21, and defendant admitted that he consumed cocaine the day before.

The defendant pled guilty to second degree murder and operating under the influence of liquor and causing death. The defendant was sentenced to 10 to 20 years imprisonment for his second-degree murder conviction.

In *People v. Werner, 254 Mich. App. 528 (2002)*, the prosecution showed that the

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OHSP honored with PACE Award

The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) will be honored by the Public Relations Society of America Central Michigan Chapter with a 2013 PACE Award on April 11.

OHSP will receive the Pinnacle Award in Innovative Tactics for the use of "talking" urinal cakes to promote a July 2012 drunk driving enforcement effort. OHSP worked with the Michigan Licensed Beverage Association (MLBA) to distribute the motion-activated urinal cakes with a sober driving message to 200 MLBA bars and restaurants in Bay, Delta, Ottawa, and Wayne counties. The distribution was part of an effort to publicize \$225,000 in federally funded

drunk driving enforcement occurring July 1-8, 2012 in 26 counties.

The urinal cakes cost \$10,000 and were in lieu of a paid advertising buy of \$250,000, which is the amount OHSP spent to promote a similar campaign in 2011. It is estimated OHSP received more than \$1 million in coverage from local, national, and international media.



PACE Awards are mid-Michigan's highest honor of public relations activities and are awarded annually to practitioners who, in the judgment of their peers, have successfully addressed a contemporary issue with exemplary professional skill, creativity, and resourcefulness.

OHSP promotes high visibility riding gear at Progressive International Motorcycle Show

The *Ride Safe to Ride Again* motorcycle safety campaign was featured at the Progressive International Motorcycle Show in Novi February 1-3. The campaign was developed by the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) to help reduce motorcyclist deaths and injuries.

Wearing high visibility riding gear and getting endorsed and trained were the messages attendees received when they visited the booth manned by OHSP and Michigan Department of State staff. Nearly 1,800 people visited the OHSP booth to take surveys, sign up for the high visibility gear giveaway, and receive literature on motorcycle safety. Two high visibility helmets and one jacket were raffled off during the event with more than 400 people signing up.



Pat Bergin was the winner of the high visibility jacket during the Progressive International Motorcycle Show in Novi.

Murder Continued from page 3 >

defendant drove after becoming seriously intoxicated. Moreover, the defendant knew from a recent prior incident that if he drank, he might experience a blackout and drive recklessly and irresponsibly. The defendant was convicted of second degree murder and operating under the influence of liquor causing death.

These cases show that no one factor by itself may be enough. It will depend on the facts of each case. One thing holds true in these cases, the facts established a level of conduct that goes beyond drunk driving. All of these defendants acted in obvious disregard of life-endangering consequences.

Due to the hard work of the Van Buren County Prosecuting Attorney Michael Bedford, with assistance on legal research issues from the Michigan traffic safety resource prosecutor, David Johnson recently pled guilty to second degree murder and to OWI causing death. He is scheduled to be sentenced on April 19.

In conclusion, prosecuting attorneys like Bedford who handle these very difficult cases should be commended because they are committed to seeing that the public is protected and that serious criminals are punished by incarcerating them in prison.

For more information on these cases and PAAM training programs, contact Kenneth Stecker, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor, at (517) 334-6060 or e-mail at steckerk@michigan.gov.

NOTE: Consult your prosecutor before adopting practices suggested by reports in this article. The court decisions in this article are designed to keep you informed of trends in the law. Discuss practices that relate to these types of cases with your commanding officers, police legal advisors, and the prosecuting attorney before changing your practices in reliance on a reported court decision.

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OHSP offering Vince and Larry® costumes for loan



Vince and Larry® have returned to help teach a crash course in seat belt safety. The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) is offering the famous crash test dummies for loan, free of charge, for events on a first-come, first-served basis.

Vince and Larry® must be used to promote seat belt and car seat use. The costumes come with 250 trading cards to be handed out during events.

In addition, OHSP offers Click It the Cricket costumes for loan to promote seat belt and car seat safety. The Click It costume comes with 250 Booster Bug coloring books to hand out during events.

Borrowers must agree to ship the costumes back at their expense by a date specified at the time of the loan. The approximate shipping cost is \$15-\$25.

To reserve the costumes, visit www.michigan.gov/ohsp and select Traffic Safety Materials from the menu on the left side of the screen.

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high school and college spring break periods, and St. Patrick's Day. A five-year review of crash data indicates both alcohol use and lack of seat belts play a significant role in fatal and serious injury crashes in March and early April.

In 2012, 2,488 people were arrested for drunk driving during the NCAA tournament time period. Of those, 789 were arrested under the state's high blood-alcohol content (BAC) law with BACs of .17 or higher. More than 400 of those arrests were made by grant-funded law enforcement agencies during last year's drunk driving crackdown.

Ride of Silence honors fallen bike riders on May 15

By Rick Brown, Member, League of Michigan Bicyclists

The 10th anniversary of a solemn event will take place worldwide on May 15 during National Bike Month. The Ride of Silence began in Dallas, Texas, in 2003 and honors those who have lost their lives or been seriously injured by motor vehicles while riding their bicycles. Aside from honoring the fallen, the ride is meant to be a peaceful way of highlighting the disregard sometimes shown toward bicyclists by drivers. The mission of the Ride of Silence is "...to honor bicyclists killed by motorists, promote sharing the road, and provide awareness of bicycling safety."

In greater Lansing, the Ride of Silence begins on the Michigan State University campus and concludes at the Capitol. Similar rides will occur throughout the United States and across the globe.

In 2012, Ride of Silence events occurred:

- >> In 318 locations around the planet.
- >> In all 50 states.
- >> In 28 locations in Michigan; the most events in any one state.



- >> In 26 Canadian locations.
- >> In 19 countries.
- >> On all seven continents.
- >> With 14,815 known riders and 61 percent of locations posting follow-up ride reports.
- >> With zero words spoken, but one million powerful memories created.

Many of us have friends and/or family members who have been killed or injured by motor vehicles while riding their bikes, but that is not a prerequisite for participation. Consider participating in this important and emotionally powerful event on May 15. If you're in a leadership role within your community please support the event in your area.

For more information on Ride of Silence events in Michigan, visit www.rideofsilence.org/locations-domestic.php?s=MI#MI. For a listing of Ride of Silence events around the world, visit www.rideofsilence.org/locations-domestic.php.

18th Annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit draws nearly 500

Nearly 500 people attended the 18th Annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit that featured the latest information on the four E's of traffic safety—enforcement, education, engineering, and emergency medical services.

The conference, sponsored by the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning and largely supported by federal traffic safety funds, took place at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center in East Lansing March 26-28.

The summit included 28 workshops that covered driving on drugs, bike safety initiatives, enhancing intersection safety,

General Motors front center air bag and Wi-Fi direct in-vehicle detection technology, safe senior driving, and the science behind crash test dummies.

Participants also had the chance to receive information from 21 exhibitors, have their photo taken with crash test dummies Vince and Larry® during a networking reception, and attend the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission awards luncheon where 11 awards were presented.

Presentations from the event can be viewed at www.michigan.gov/ohsp.

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Promote sharing the road during bike month

By John Lindenmayer, Advocacy & Policy Director, League of Michigan Bicyclists

Americans have been commemorating National Bike Month in May for 57 years thanks to advocacy groups like the League of American Bicyclists and the League of Michigan Bicyclists (LMB). Timed to coincide with the arrival of warmer weather, the event has inspired countless bike rides, safety inspections, commuter challenges, ribbon-cuttings, and other celebrations of bicycling.

LMB encourages law enforcement to use National Bike Month as an opportunity to encourage drivers and bicyclists to share the road.

Remind drivers that bicyclists have a legal right to use the roads, to look out for them, and to always give bicyclists at least three-five feet of space when passing.

Remind bicyclists to follow the rules of the road by obeying all traffic signs, lane markings and signals, and to ride with traffic, wear high visibility clothing, and use front and rear lights if riding after dark.

Additional safety tips and other free resources for law enforcement about promoting safe interactions between motorists and bicyclists can be found at www.LMB.org/lawenforcement. Copies of *What Every Michigan Bicyclist Must Know*

and *What Every Young Michigan Bicyclist Must Know* are also located on the Web site.

LMB is also excited to announce that a statewide share the road campaign is currently being developed. More information will be available soon at www.shareMIroads.org. Those interested in serving on the Share the Road Advisory Committee should contact john@LMB.org.



New Strategic Highway Safety Plan approved by Governor

The 2013-2016 Michigan Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) was recently approved and signed by Governor Rick Snyder. The SHSP was created under the direction of the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission and lays the groundwork for continuing to reduce traffic fatalities, injuries, and crashes on Michigan roadways. The updated plan aligns Michigan with the national vision of Toward Zero Deaths. The SHSP addresses traffic safety issues within four broad emphasis areas: high-risk behaviors, at-risk road users, engineering infrastructure, and system administration action teams.

The following changes were made to the action teams:

- >> Distracted Driving (Previously Driver Behavior and Awareness Action Team)
- >> Traffic Safety Engineering (Previously Intersection Safety and Lane Departure Action Teams)
- >> Traffic Incident Management (Previously Emergency Medical Services Action Team)

The remaining action teams include:

- >> Impaired Driving
- >> Occupant Protection
- >> Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety
- >> Motorcycle Safety
- >> Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety

- >> Senior Mobility and Safety
- >> Drivers Age 24 and Younger
- >> Traffic Records and Information Systems

Each action team is now tasked with developing a plan to address a targeted set of safety issues. Those interested in participating on one of these action teams should contact Linda Fech with the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning at fechl@michigan.gov or Kim Lariviere with the Michigan Department of Transportation at larivierek@michigan.gov.

The updated SHSP can be accessed at www.michigan.gov/ohsp.

What's Ahead

APRIL

National Distracted Driving Awareness Month

www.focusdriven.org

Alcohol Awareness Month

www.nih.gov

15-19 **National Work Zone Awareness Week**
safety.fhwa.dot.gov

MAY

National Youth Traffic Safety Month

www.noys.org

Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

www.nhtsa.gov

National Bike Month

www.bikeleague.org

8 **Bike to School Day**

www.bikeleague.org

9 **Huron Valley Traffic Safety Committee meeting,**

Washtenaw County Road Commission,
555 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor-9:30 a.m.

15 **Ride of Silence**

www.rideofsilence.org

19-25 **EMS Week**

www.aecp.org/emsweek

20 **Bike to Work Day**

www.bikeleague.org

20-6/2 **Click It or Ticket seat belt mobilization** www.nhtsa.gov

30 **Lakeshore Traffic Safety Committee meeting,** Hot Rod Harley, 149 Shoreline Drive, Muskegon-10 a.m.

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GTSAC presents 11 traffic safety awards

The Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) honored 11 individuals and organizations at the group's annual awards luncheon March 27 at the Kellogg Conference Center in East Lansing.

Each year the commission honors organizations, programs, and individuals for outstanding contributions to traffic safety. The awards luncheon was part of the 18th Annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit.

2012 GTSAC OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



The **Detroit Police Department Youth Alcohol Task Force** was honored for its unique approach to reducing underage drinking and driving. The task force uses social media to conduct online surveillance to locate and shut down large parties at non-licensed commercial venues where minors have access to alcohol and drugs. These parties are only advertised through social media and typically have 400-600 attendees, the majority of which are under 21 years old. Since 2008, the task force has shut down 28 parties resulting in more than 1,100 minor-in-possession tickets, 120 tickets to adults furnishing alcohol, and nearly 400 liquor code violations.



The **Grand Blanc Township Police Department** was honored for its commitment to drunk driving enforcement and training officers in impaired driving detection. Although it is not the largest police department in the county, it regularly leads Genesee County in drunk driving arrests. The key to the department's success is officer training. Every member of the department is Standard Field Sobriety Testing certified and all patrol officers attend Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement training. Department members were also leaders in establishing a Drug Recognition Expert training program in Michigan, which trains officers to recognize signs of impairment in drivers under the influence of drugs other than, or in addition to, alcohol and to identify the category or categories of drugs causing the impairment.



The **League of Michigan Bicyclists (LMB)** was honored for developing bicycle safety information specifically for children after realizing the majority of requests for the What Every Michigan Bicyclist Must Know publication were coming from organizations focused on teaching children about bicycle safety. Using member donations, the LMB developed and produced What Every Young Michigan Bicyclist Must Know, a booklet that displays information in a simple, fun, and colorful way to help instill safe habits in children. More than 50,000 copies have been circulated.

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The **Norton Shores Traffic Safety Program** was honored for a comprehensive approach to educating the community about the dangers of underage drinking and driving. The program seeks to reduce alcohol consumption by minors through a combination of education, enforcement, and positive incentives. It consists of 15 different segments including contests, presentations, and concentrated enforcement efforts. Multiple partners are included to eliminate overlapping services and deliver consistent, comprehensive messages. More than 1,300 students participated in the 2011-2012 school year and survey results showed there was an overall reduction in alcohol access and usage. The Norton Shores Traffic Safety Program includes the Norton Shores Fire Department, Norton Shores Police Department, Professional Medical Team, and Mona Shores School District.



The **Remembering Ally: Distracted Driving Awareness Campaign** was honored for disseminating information about the dangers of distracted driving. The campaign includes a television public service announcement, video depicting a dramatization of a distracted driving crash, multimedia presentation, and materials available to schools and law enforcement agencies across the country. It was named in honor of 16-year-old Romeo High School student Ally Zimmerman who was killed by a distracted driver in 2010. It is estimated more than 100,000 people have been impacted by the campaign's message and the crash video has been viewed in more than 90 countries.



D/F/Lt. **Tim Gill** of the Michigan State Police (MSP) First District Headquarters was honored for developing the Safe Prom Initiative. Conducted largely on his own time, the focus of Gill's initiative is ensuring teens have a safe and alcohol-free prom. The effort involves essay writing and community service message contests, flyers, and school assemblies. Gill also works with Lansing-area law enforcement agencies to hold press conferences and reach out to area businesses that cater to teens around prom season to draw attention to the dangers of underage drinking and driving.



MC Ofcrs. **Erick Kestila**, of the MSP Gladstone Post, and **Daniel Litzner**, of the MSP St. Ignace Post, were honored for ensuring student safety by going above and beyond to complete school bus safety inspections. Although normally assigned to the Upper Peninsula, Kestila and Litzner volunteered to assist MSP school bus inspection units in Grand Rapids and Traverse City that fell behind due to short staffing. The Pupil Transportation Act mandates MSP conduct a 198-point safety inspection of all public and private school bus fleets. Kestila and Litzner spent weeks away from their families while conducting more than 400 inspections which resulted in the school bus inspections being completed on time.

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Bonnie Raffaele of Sault Sainte Marie was honored for her efforts to raise awareness among teens about the dangers of being distracted by a cell phone while driving. Following the death of her 17-year-old daughter Kelsey in a cell phone-related crash in 2010, Raffaele created the KDR (Kids Driving Responsibly) Challenge and made more than 50 presentations to more than 6,000 students encouraging them to sign a pledge to not use a cell phone while driving. She was also the driving force behind Kelsey's Law, which prohibits Level 1 and Level 2 license holders under the Graduated Driver Licensing program from using a cell phone while driving.

RICHARD H. AUSTIN LONG-TERM TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARDS



Spl/Sgt. James Campbell of the MSP Fifth District Headquarters was honored for his personal and professional dedication to traffic safety. Recognized as a leader in the Southwest Michigan traffic safety community, Campbell is known for initiating projects both on and off duty, including creating awareness among teens about the dangers of drinking and driving, training child passenger safety technicians in the proper installation of car seats, and using traffic crash data to better target enforcement patrols. As a crash reconstructionist, Campbell investigates approximately 40 fatal crashes each year. Two fatal crashes involving motorists hitting a police officer during a traffic stop inspired him to help create the Kazoo Area Foot Chase to support Michigan Concerns of Police Survivors, which has raised \$100,000 to support awareness of officer safety on roads.



F/Lt. Christine Grabowski of the MSP Iron Mountain Post was honored for devoting her 23-year career to promoting traffic safety in the Upper Peninsula. She has initiated projects in a variety of areas, including school bus safety, bicycle safety, law enforcement training, child passenger safety, and public education. As a school liaison officer, she created a program to increase the seat belt use among high school students. Grabowski made personal contact with students as they drove into school, providing free food coupons from local restaurants to students wearing seat belts and talking to the students not wearing seat belts about safety. The program resulted in a 25-40 percent increase in seat belt use.



Ofcr. Lynn Kentner of the Lansing Police Department was honored for his personal and professional dedication to traffic safety. During his 24-year career, Kentner has worked diligently toward making Lansing a safer place to travel through consistent enforcement, crash investigation, and public education. He is known for presenting himself professionally during every enforcement contact and for striving to educate the driver about safe driving practices. As a crash investigator, Kentner responds after hours, on weekends, and during holidays, and has applied his expertise to thousands of serious and fatal crashes both on-scene and in court. He has also served as a motorcycle safety instructor and child passenger safety technician.

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OHSP Staff:

Contact	Program Area	Phone	E-mail
Michael L. Prince	Director	(517) 241-1512	princem@michigan.gov
Janet Hengesbach	Executive Secretary	(517) 241-1512	hengesbachj2@michigan.gov
SAFETY PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION			
Kathy Farnum	Senior Section Chief	(517) 241-2528	farnumk@michigan.gov
Linda Fech	Special Programs	(517) 241-2533	fechl@michigan.gov
Charlotte Kilvington	Analysis & Evaluation	(517) 241-2582	kilvingtonc@michigan.gov
Brenda Roys	Grants Technician	(517) 241-2575	roysb@michigan.gov
Alicia Sledge	Traffic Records	(517) 241-1505	sledgea@michigan.gov
COMMUNICATIONS			
Anne Readett	Section Chief	(517) 241-2569	readetta@michigan.gov
Jonathan Benallack	Graphic Designer	(517) 241-2571	benallackj1@michigan.gov
Melody Kindraka	Public Information	(517) 241-1522	kindrakam@michigan.gov
Lynn Sutfin	Public Information	(517) 241-1513	sutfinl@michigan.gov
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT			
Kim Kelly	Section Chief	(517) 241-2556	kellyk3@michigan.gov
Susan Bishop	Administrative Assistant	(517) 241-2520	bishops2@michigan.gov
Julie Roth	Secondary Road Patrol	(517) 241-2572	rothj3@michigan.gov
Jean Shattuck	Accounting Technician	(517) 241-2544	shattuckj@michigan.gov
Spencer Simmons	Accountant	(517) 241-2584	simmonss6@michigan.gov
PROGRAM MANAGEMENT			
Jason Hamblen	Section Chief	(517) 241-2578	hamblenj@michigan.gov
Jamie Dolan	Northern Michigan	(906) 225-7036	dolanj@michigan.gov
Pat Eliason	Police Traffic Services	(517) 241-2498	eliasonp@michigan.gov
Michael Harris	Law Enforcement Liaison/State DRE Coordinator	(517) 241-2536	harrism13@michigan.gov
Alyson Kechkaylo	Occupant Protection	(517) 241-2546	kechkayloa@michigan.gov
Dianne Perukel	Alcohol Programs	(517) 241-2565	perukeld@michigan.gov
Chad Teachout	Motorcycle	(517) 241-2579	teachoutc@michigan.gov

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Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning
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Office of Highway Safety Planning
P.O. Box 30634
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 241-2500